

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2211

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, AR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 185601

1. COMMISSION DECISION RE IWP PRINCIPAL AND ALTERNATE CANDIDATES STANDS FIRM. BOTH CANDIDATES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY ARGENTINE LITERARY FIGURES CONSULTED AND MATTER THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED JUNE COMMISSION MEETING. DECIDING FACTOR WAS ALTERNATE'S ABSENCE FROM ARGENTINA, EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL VISITS, WHICH COMMISSION BELIEVES WOULD NOT MAKE HIM REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINE LETTERS. ALSO SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD EVER RETURN UPON COMPLETING THE WORKSHOP, E.G. HE OWNS RESIDENCE ABROAD BUT NOT IN ARGENTINA.

2. COMMISSION FULLY AWARE IOWA'S DESIRE TO HAVE ALTERNATE BUT CONSIDERS THE DECISION THEIRS. THEY ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER SATZ FOR NEXT YEAR, WHEN HE HAS ESTABLISHED SOME KIND OF BASE IN ARGENTINA AND HE HAS BEEN TOLD THIS. THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE HAPPY CONSIDER HIM FOR THIS YEAR IF THERE WERE TWO FELLOWSHIPS. AS ONLY ONE ALLOCATED, THEY PREFER SEND CANDIDATE OF MERIT, ONE WHO REPRESENTATIVE OF COUNTRY AND LIKELY TO RETURN TO SHARE HIS EXPERIENCE.

3. AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, PRINCIPAL AND ALTERNATE CANDIDATES WERE INFORMED OF COMMISSION'S DECISION IMMEDIATELY AFTER IT WAS MADE. OBVIOUSLY ANY CHANGE IN THIS DECISION WOULD RESULT IN AN EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE AND EMBARRASSING SITUATION FOR
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ALL CONCERNED.

4. FOR DEPARTMENT ONLY: PRIOR TO FINAL SELECTION ALTERNATE WAS OBVIOUS IN HIS DESPERATION TO BE CHOSEN. BEGAN OWN INDEPENDENT CORRESPONDENCE WITH IOWA ET AL. REPEATEDLY PRESSURED COMMISSION STAFF. WIFE CALLED EEO SOUNDING SOMEWHAT DISTRESSED. FINALLY, A LETTER SIGNED WITH PSEUDONYM "ALICIA MARTINEZ" WAS FORWARDED TO CAO BY IOWA. LETTER COMPLAINED THAT PREVIOUS ARGENTINE IOWA PARTICIPANTS HAD BEEN INFERIOR AND NAMED SATZ AS ONE OF THREE ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES FOR THIS YEAR. ACCOMPANIED BY STATEMENT FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BLUME THAT SATZ SHOULD BE ARGENTINE PRINCIPAL. EEO SENT LENGTHY ANSWER TO WHICH ENGEL REPLIED, APOLOGIZING FOR BLUME. ORDER NOT PREJUDICE SATZ' CHANCES, COMMISSION ONLY INFORMED OF CORRESPONDENCE AND NOT OF OTHER PRESSURES.

5. EEO AND EXEC SEC HAVE VERY CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SATZ. CONVERSATION IN SOCIAL SITUATION REVEALED THAT AFTER HEARING NEWS OF SELECTION AS ALTERNATE, HIS AUSTRALIAN WIFE LEFT HIM, TAKING THEIR CHILD TO LIVE IN THE U.S. FOR "A LONG STAY."
HILL

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